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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 18, 2006

Contact: Nancy Wilson, director, ASUM Office of Transportation, 406-243-4599.

GATHERING TO CELEBRATE UM'S NEW BUS

MISSOULA –

The Missoula Urban Transportation District, which oversees the city bus service Mountain Line, is donating a 35-foot bus to The University of Montana.

Nancy Wilson, director of the ASUM Office of Transportation, said the donation of the 35-foot Gillig Transportation bus is a first.

To commemorate the donation and thank those responsible for it a celebration -- complete with UM and city officials, cake and coffee -- will take place at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at the MacMahon Transportation Center at the Lewis and Clark Village Park-N-Ride.

Wilson said Mountain Line just received five new buses and was going to have a surplus so ASUM requested that they donate one of the vehicles to UM.

"We're thrilled to have it," she said. "It's five feet longer than anything we have in our fleet."

Wilson said she hopes that extra size will help alleviate an enduring problem for Park-N-Ride and U-DASH bus services: having to leave people behind.

The services combine to give approximately 1,800 rides each day and during peak times students are sometimes left to wait for the next circuit before they can hitch a ride.

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The bus, while not brand new, will still be the newest vehicle in the fleet, which should mean added reliability and longevity. The donated bus is a 1996 model compared to the two buses in use now which were built in 1988 and 1989.

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